

Summary of 2010 Faculty/Staff Commuter Survey

The Sustainability Office worked with St. Paul Smart Trips to implement a comprehensive faculty/staff commuter survey in May, 2010 to get data on commuting habits for the greenhouse gas emissions inventory. The survey was distributed via email to 450 employees. The response rate was 76%.

The results show that the majority of faculty and staff drive alone as their main commute mode (66.6%). The next commute mode was walk/run/skate with 17.3%. The drive alone rate of the staff (72.4%) is significantly higher than that of faculty (55.4%). Faculty also bike, walk, or use transit at a significantly higher rate than staff. Those who report “drive alone” as their major commute mode are less satisfied than those who use other modes. In the past three years, 20.5% of the employees changed their commute mode with 54% changing to “drive alone”. Of these employees, 15% cited childcare needs, 9% cited work schedule changes and 7% cited saving money.

Recommendations include:

- Charge for parking
- Continue discounted transit passes and implement MetroPass
- Raise awareness of ridesharing and offer incentives
- Continue to promote bike/walk commuting and offer incentives
- Actively market teleworking and flexible scheduling
- Continue to promote HOURCAR
- Take advantage of Metro transit’s Guaranteed Ride Home program
- Provide more information on transportation modes and “hands on” events
- Take advantage of tax breaks
- Communicate concerns and suggestions to Smart Trips

The full report is available at:

www.macalester.edu/sustainability/data/macalestercommuteroptionsplan.pdf. The Sustainability Advisory Committee will review the recommendations in fall, 2010.